through Railway Bonds in the years 1995-96 and in the current year; and

(b) the targets had been fixed for the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways is mobilising capital through bonds. During the year 1995-96, the amount of capital mobilised by IRFC is Rs. 520.23 crore. In addition, the Corporation also mobilised US $ 70 million through External Commercial Borrowing.

For the current year, IRFC has commenced mobilisation of funds and is in the market for the first tranche of Rs. 400 crore through private placement which has started on 5th July, 1996.

(b) The targets fixed for 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under :

1995-96 : Rs. 1350 crore excluding Rs. 900 crore by way of Build Operate Lease and Transfer (BOLT) and Own Your Wagon schemes from Rs. 2250 crore shown in Explanatory Memorandum to Railway Budget.

1996-97 : Rs. 1850 crore including External Commercial borrowing.

Subsidy for Crops

2140. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy on growing bajra, maize and some other crops;

(b) if so, the names of crops on which subsidy is proposed to be provided; and

(c) the amount of the subsidy proposed to be provided for growing those crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes on Integrated Cereals Development Programme with a cropping systems approach provide for financial assistance with a view to increase the production and productivity of Bajra, Jowar, small millets and other cereal crops namely, maize, wheat and rice. Inentives are provided for certified seeds farm implements and frontline demonstration on crop production technology, Integrated Pest Management etc.

(c) The thrust of the Programme for the crops mentioned in the reply to parts (a) and (b) above is transfer of technology and increasing production and productivity. The expenditure on major components of the schemes is shared between Government of India and the States on 75:25 basis. The Central funds allocated for the year 1996-97 for the Programme is about Rs. 86 crores.

[Translation]

Development of Sarguja

2141. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking any steps for the development and to increase production of Sarguja in view of the great demand of oil derived from Sarguja in the foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Assam and Manipur for the development of Niger (Sarguja) cultivation in the country for increasing its production and the productivity. Under the Programme, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, Rhizobium culture, Gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements etc. In addition, front-line and general demonstrations are conducted on farmers fields to transfer the production technology.

Besides National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVOD Board) has also started the programmes for promoting niger cultivation in non-traditional areas of Assam and Maharashtra from 1993-94.

[English]

Computerisation of Railway Services

2142. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which computerisation has been introduced in the Railways, especially in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend computerisation in other parts of Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Computerisation has been introduced in such railway services as passenger reservations, issue of unreserved tickets, and answering on telephone of enquiries concerning reservation status and train arrivals/departures. Computerised reservation services have been provided at all stations having a workload of 300